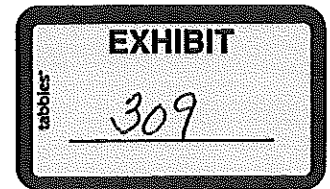


# Housatonic River Estuary Commission (HREC)

Representing the Towns of Shelton, Milford, Stratford, Ansonia, Orange, and Derby



February 2, 2010

Paul Stacey  
CT DEP  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHIEF

FEB 03 2010

Dear Director Stacey,

The Housatonic River estuary Commission (HREC) is a six town commission dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Housatonic River as directed in accordance with CGS Sec.25-170 (Chapter 483b).

The commission may study any issues relating to the Housatonic River and may make such recommendations as may be necessary to maintain, protect and restore the resources of the estuary of the Housatonic River. The commission shall consider the adverse impact any action proposed for the Housatonic River estuary that may impact its' resources. *This is a forum in which the these communities regardless of their own local or similar efforts, come together without borders to collectively work together for one common goal, the stewardship of the Housatonic River.*

Since its formal organization in 2007 the Housatonic River Estuary Commission (HREC) has continued to grow and become more knowledgeable and involved with issues concerning the utilization and protection of the Housatonic River.

Adequate water flow from tributaries to the river systems in CT and Long Island Sound is essential to the living resources of such watersheds. Both animals and submerged vegetation require water to flow at minimum levels providing nutrients, oxygen and control of temperature. Flow is essential for migration and reproduction success of living species.

The Housatonic River Commission has read the information regarding the protection of stream flows and wholeheartedly agrees that keeping water flowing for our natural resources is vitally important.

HREC is submitting the following recommendations for incorporation into the stream flow protection regulations:

- Prerequisite requirements should be established for entities that are approved for the removal/diversion and use of stream waters.
- Entities removing water from tributaries should be required to utilize low flow water devices to reduce their use of public water.

- Best management practices should be incorporated on the property(ies) of those diverting public resources; including rain gardens and subsurface stormwater systems to recharge the groundwater during rain events.
- Roof leader/gutters and impervious surfaces should be redirected so that rainfall flows to retention basins on such properties for subsequent use.
- Non-point runoff from water diversion/utilization sites should be "treated" using the implementation of best management practices to slow flows and filter pollutant materials and sediments before the runoff reaches the adjacent tributaries (including but not limited to; berms, swales, pervious surfaces, buffer vegetation strips)

An exchange for the ability to utilize some stream flow for an improvement in the quality of any runoff from those sites would be advantageous.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Romick, Vice Chair  
Milford Representative

Bob Gesullo (Shelton), Chairman [bobge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobge@sbcglobal.net)  
Lori Romick, Milford, Vice Chair, [lromick@optonline.net](mailto:lromick@optonline.net), 203-214-4637  
Jason Blake, Orange, Treasurer, 203-671-3155  
William Urban, Ansonia, 203-735-2341  
William Rock, Stratford, 203-377-6537  
William Rohland, Derby

Cc: The Honorable James Della Volpe (Ansonia), Anthony Staffiere (Derby), Mark A. Lauretti (Shelton), James L. Richetelli Jr. (Milford), James Zeoli (Orange) and John Harkins (Stratford), Margaret Minor, Rivers Alliance of CT

## **CHAPTER 483b**

# **HOUSATONIC RIVER ESTUARY COMMISSION**

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Sec. 25-170. Commission authorized. Membership. Duties.  
Secs. 25-171 to 25-174.

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**Sec. 25-170. Commission authorized. Membership. Duties.** (a) The towns of Shelton, Derby, Ansonia, Orange, Stratford and Milford may by ordinance establish a Housatonic River Estuary Commission. The ordinance shall set forth the number of members of the commission, their method of selection, terms of office and procedure for filling any vacancy. The commission may employ expert and such other assistants as it judges necessary and may accept funds from any source. Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, funds appropriated to the commission, or received by the commission from any other source, shall be held in the custody of the commission and expended by the commission for the purposes set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The commission may study any issues relating to the Housatonic River and may make such recommendations as may be necessary to maintain, protect and restore the resources of the estuary of the Housatonic River. The commission shall consider the adverse impact any action proposed in or for the Housatonic River estuary may have upon the marine resources of said river. The commission may prepare and submit a report to the local legislative bodies of the towns represented on said commission.